

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB-63 for Paid Sick Days
Labor and Public Employees Committee

February 2010

Testimony on Paid Sick Days legislation for Labor Committee Hearing,

I have been a supporter of providing paid sick days to employees for the past couple years. However, because of the harsh economic climate I believe it is especially important to support the bill this year, not only from an employee perspective but also from an employer perspective. Part of building a healthy and stable economy is giving workers time to recover from illnesses in an efficient and healthy manner, by giving them time to rest without being put in financial risk.

I am a business owner as well as a parent. I run a small cleaning company. I opened my business because when I worked for previous employers their policies did not make it possible for me to work and take care of my family. For example, when I was pregnant I worked until the day I was due, because I couldn't take any paid time off. When my children were sick I found myself in the impossible dilemma between taking care of them and keeping the wages I needed.

I decided to be the kind of employer that takes care of their employees. I provide health care and paid sick days to my employees. Health care costs are a burden but paid sick days are easy to afford. Giving employees paid sick time is worthwhile, because employees are more productive, recover from illness faster, and do not put my customers at risk. All responsible businesses should provide paid sick days, it isn't a real cost and employees need it.

I believe legislators should support paid sick days this year. It is a smart decision that will benefit both business owners and employees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tashieanna Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tashieanna Smith